

To Whom It Concerns:

Enough is enough already with the media stranglehold the National Association of Broadcasters enjoys over the consumer with the assistance and blessing of our Legislators!

As one of those consumers, I'm tired of the endless and mind-numbing stream of commercial after commercial associated with "free" radio and have gladly purchased a satellite setup for my semi-tractor to allow myself a choice of news, music and sports without having to listen to commercials played one after the other between short snippets of the traffic and weather information I need to complete my job in an efficient manner.

I am an interstate cargo carrier, and must say that it is unbelievably convenient to have the ability to tune in to local news, weather and traffic as I move around my extended service area, and I find it maddening that you (as a Government Agency) may soon have the ability to strongarm me into having to listen to endless garbage hour after hour because one organization or another "owns" the airwaves around our major metro areas.

I guess I was under the mistaken impression that the FCC was in the business of helping to protect the consumer's freedom of speech and choice, not the Communications Industry's "bought and paid for" right to force us to listen to what they want us to hear. While I will agree that there are many, many issues of licensing and procedure which are well within the scope of duties of the FCC, I believe that the protection of the NAB's marketshare when a new and far superior method of delivery becomes available to the public is not. How any member of the House of Representatives could endorse or allow a Bill of this sort to move forward through the Legislature without questioning the legality or motive of the measure is infuriating, but quite clear when one considers the "buying power" organizations such as the NAB have always enjoyed with our elected officials.

While there will always be a need for "free" radio just as there will always be a need for "free" television, there will also be a continued call for newer and better methods of delivery as well. The FCC should not have the ability, nor should our elected officials legislate for the NAB's right to keep the consumer in the "digital dark ages" simply because the National Association of Broadcasters has the power to unfairly influence Legislators and legislation which will stifle the growth of new and/or competitive technology.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Schmidt